

BRAYA GLABELLA Richards. FIG. 2, 243 "Richardson's Arctic Plants" (G),  $\times \frac{2}{5}$ .

BRAYA PURPURASCENS (R. Br.) Bunge, habit-photographs illustrating range of variation (see also Plate 1090, fig. 1), all  $\times \frac{2}{5}$ . FIG. 3, "typical" phase, region of North Star Bay, N. W. Greenland, *W. E. Ekblaw*, no. 408 (G); FIG. 4, depauperate phase, Lille Suends, c.  $76^{\circ} 45' N.$ , Greenland, *Lundager*, no. 1062 (O); FIGS. 5a-5d, "typical" to robust phase, Richmond Gulf, P. Q., *Abbe & Abbe*, 3819 (M): FIG. 5a, short, elliptical silique and narrow rosette leaves; FIG. 5b, short, elliptical silique and broader rosette leaves; FIG. 5c, long, oblong silique and broader rosette leaves; FIG. 5d, long, oblong silique, and narrow rosette leaves.

PLATE 1090. BRAYA PURPURASCENS, habit-photographs illustrating range of variation (see also, Plate 1089, figs. 3-5b),  $\times \frac{2}{5}$ . FIG. 1, robust phase, Southampton, Southampton Island, *M. O. Malte* 120,677 (O).

BRAYA FERNALDII Abbe. FIG. 2, TYPE,  $\times \frac{2}{5}$ , Cape Norman, northwestern Newfoundland, *Wiegand, Griscom & Hotchkiss*, no. 28,434 (G).

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA,  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

---

ANOTHER AGGRESSIVE HAWKWEED.—Mr. Henry S. Dennison recently sent to the Gray Herbarium material of a weed which interested him, found in the confines of a 500-foot carry between Sysladobsis and Pocumpsus Lakes in the center of Washington County (nearest Springfield post-office), Maine. The plant proves to be a variety of the already too aggressive *Hieracium pilosella* L., this one being var. *niveum* Muell.-Arg., with the lower leaf-surface permanently white. It is likely to become another pest.—M. L. FERNALD.

---

THE NEW WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE CHECKLIST.—The second edition, dated December, 1946, of the Washington-Baltimore Checklist by Frederick J. Hermann<sup>1</sup> has come to hand. The new list replaces that of 1941 and largely epitomizes changes in the identifications of the vascular plants of the region west of Chesapeake Bay, north to the Pennsylvania stateline, south to the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers and westward to the eastern bases of the Blue Ridge. At the west the Bull Run Mountains are included. Under each group waifs are separated from the native and truly naturalized species, a praiseworthy distinction in view of the mapping in a much used handbook of species for states where they are not established, simply because someone fifty or seventy-five years ago found casual waifs on ship's ballast or on waste from woolen-mills of New England, species foreign to the area but which got entangled in the wool which eventually landed at North Berwick, Chelmsford or other woolen-mill centers but which have not persisted in New England; unless one knows the facts he would infer from such maps that these mere waifs are really a part of the established flora. Congratulations to the authors of the Checklist for clearly differentiating them!

<sup>1</sup> A CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN THE WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE AREA by *Frederick J. Hermann*, member of Executive Committee, Conference on District Flora. Second Edition, December, 1946. Issued by the Conference on District Flora, *E. H. Walker*, Chairman.

The treatments of some groups have been prepared by special contributors: the *Pteridophyta* by Mr. W. H. Wagner, Jr.; *Gramineae* by Mrs. Agnes Chase; *Cyperus* by Dr. Hugh O'Neill; *Rubiaceae* by Dr. F. R. Fosberg. The three latter treatments follow the well known philosophy of the three authors, interpretations with which some others may differ. The treatment of most groups, however, will be generally accepted, these being quite tolerant of recent changes which are necessary where types or differential characters have been restudied and demonstrated to have been misunderstood.

In some cases, however, restudy may bring some important changes. In the *Pteridophyta*, for instance, although the treatment is largely a safe one to follow, it sometimes seems based on limited experience. *Dryopteris intermedia* is maintained as a species distinct from *D. spinulosa* but *Polypodium virginianum* is remerged with the European and western North American *P. vulgare*. There are of course those who argue for the specific separation of the two members of *Dryopteris*, which can be separated by a slight difference in the cutting of the frond and by the presence or absence of glands on frond and indusia, but in much of their American ranges they are coincident and those with large field-experience find them too often intergrading. Such sound students as Hooker, Gray (in his mature years), D. C. Eaton, Underwood, Davenport, Christensen, Weatherby, Tryon and many more have treated them as variations of a single species. *Polypodium virginianum*, on the other hand, has a very different geographic range from *P. vulgare* and the two differ in many definite morphological characters which are summarized in RHODORA, xxiv. 136 (1922). Besides these another significant character has been pointed out by Dr. P. Martens in his detailed study, *Les Organes glanduleux de Polypodium virginianum* in Bull. Jard. Bot. de l'État Brux. xvii. 1-14 (1943). In *P. virginianum* the sporangia are mixed with long-stalked clavate simple or branched glands; in *P. vulgare* such structures do not occur. Since the revival in 1922 of *P. virginianum* it has been generally recognized as a distinct species; but, if this is not a species, what possible defense can be made for the specific recognition of *Dryopteris intermedia*?

In the treatment of *Gramineae*, furthermore, it is a striking fact that many correction and studies made outside of Washington are ignored. In the pages of RHODORA many former treatments have been clearly demonstrated to need alteration, but in the Checklist several of the corrected names are either completely ignored or too hastily reduced to synonymy of quite different species. If Washington botanists persist in writing *Erianthus* "giganteus (Walt.) Muhl." (for discussion see RHODORA, xlv. 249-252 (1943)), if they continue to confuse our slender and chiefly annual *Paspalum fluitans* (Ell.) Kunth with the coarse and stoutly perennial tropical *P. repens* Bergius (see RHODORA, xxxix. 382-388, plate 474 (1937)), if they believe that real *Muhlenbergia mexicana* (see RHODORA, xlv. 224-230, plates 749-752 (1943)) grows about Washington, they will be perpetuating error. These are not merely matters of personal opinion or judgment but simple and demonstrated facts. In RHODORA, l. c. (1943) it was clearly shown that failure to check the original Latin descriptions and to study carefully the types had resulted in an unusual amount of error in the then current treatment of our eastern species of *Muhlenbergia*. But in the new Checklist the old error regarding *M. mexicana* is perpetuated. Other similar cases, such as *Cenchrus pauciflorus* of Mexico and adjacent Texas (see RHODORA, l. c. 387, 388 (1943)) need not here be piled up; they will be apparent to those who have kept abreast of recent careful revisions. It is not necessary to continue past errors in such cases.

In perusing the pages of this mostly creditable Checklist one is gratified to find that the records have usually been carefully checked. Only in a few cases are omissions apparent to one whose limited time for field-work farther south and demands of the classroom farther north have always forced him to pass, without time for visits, as rapidly as possible through Washington and Baltimore. In 1904 Mrs. Chase wrote to the Gray Herbarium and sent many

specimens, collected from April through October, of the well marked and in Europe generally recognized *Capsella rubella* Reuter, these collections all made in Washington. The species is a very definite one, distinguished from the ubiquitous *C. Bursa-pastoris* (which is a greenish plant with petals much exceeding sepals, the silicles with straight or slightly convex margins, the summit subtruncate to barely emarginate) by its reddish or purplish tone, very small petals, the silicles small and with margins concave above, the summit definitely emarginate. It is too bad that Mrs. Chase's discriminating observations got overlooked. The species is an abundant weed northward and it abounds in southeastern Virginia; it is not a mere waif.

In the Gray Herbarium two other additions to the Checklist are represented. *Carex texensis* (Torr.) Bailey is there represented by material collected by C. F. Wheeler, June, 1907, and marked "Smithsonian grounds, in lawn. Adv.?". This sheet was identified by Mackenzie but he did not enter the District of Columbia for it in the North American Flora. Evidently indigenous material comes from farther east: sandy woods, Centerville, Maryland, May 22, 1930, H. D. House, no. 7306. *Linum intercursum* Bickn. is represented by S. F. Blake, no. 9564 from dry bank, Hyattsville, Maryland (identified as *L. floridanum*).

In a few cases, besides those already mentioned, the authors would do well to check or clarify some of the names used, as well as their cited authors. Thus we here find "Selaginella apoda (L.) Spring ex Mart. (S. apus (L.) Spring)". Turning to Martius, Flora Basiliensis, i<sup>2</sup>. 119 (1840) we find Spring making the new name *S. apus* and citing four early species of *Lycopodium* as belonging to it, these including *L. apodum* L. If the authors have a reference to Martius where the combination *Selaginella apoda* was published it would be helpful to have it cited. The latter combination is usually dated from its publication in RHODORA, xvii. 68 (1915). *Arabis dentata* (Torr.) Torr. & Gray (1838) is antedated by *A. dentata* Clairville (1811). The name of the plant of the Washington area is *A. perstellata* E. L. Braun, var. *Shortiana* Fern. in RHODORA, xlviii. 208 (1946). *Lysimachia longifolia* Pursh (1814) is taken up with *Steironema quadriflorum* (Sims) Hitchc. as a synonym. Since, however, the latter combination rests on *Lysimachia quadriflora* Sims (1803), a well described and illustrated new species without competition as to name, the conclusion is obvious. *Veronica polita* Fries should replace *V. didyma* Tenore—see Schinz und Thellung in Vierteljahrschr. nat. Ges. Zurich, li. 496 (1906) and liii. 561 (1909), also Mansfeld in Fedde, Repert. xlvii. 151 (1939).

Although the "nomenclature conforms with the International Rules," the authors almost scrupulously avoid Recommendation XLIII, that "Specific (or other) epithets should be written with a small initial letter, except those which are derived from names of persons (substantives or adjectives) or are taken from generic or vernacular names (substantives or adjectives)." The latter part of this Recommendation is not generally subscribed to in Washington. Furthermore, if an acute feeling for words, such as is required in the capitalizing of initials above referred to, had prevailed, we should not find such an impossible combination as *Nuphar* "advenum", a blunder not caught in the enumeration of 120 or more emendations and corrections at the end of the Checklist.

The present reviewer was asked to "publish some friendly comments on the Checklist". He has done so, though, along with praise of some features, he has also taken time to point the way to some needed corrections. It is hoped that, when the detailed flora of the area sometime comes out, the friendly suggestions here made will be recognized as such.—M. L. F.